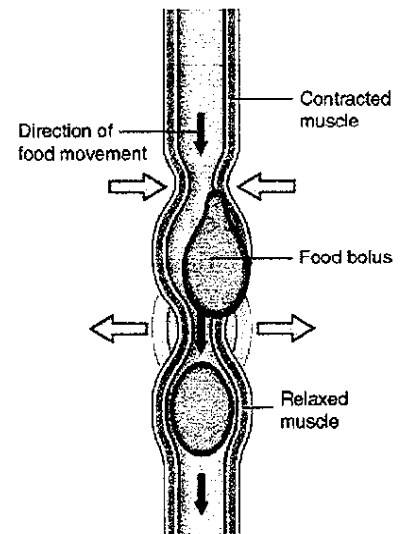


### In the Mouth :

1. Digestion begins in the mouth.
2. Food in the mouth stimulates the production of saliva.
3. Saliva softens the food.
4. Mastication or chewing helps to break food into smaller pieces to present a greater surface area for the enzymes to act on.
5. Saliva is slightly alkaline and contains an amylase known as ptyalin. This enzyme breaks starch down into maltose.
6. Food is rolled into small "balls" called boli, which are then swallowed into the oesophagus.
7. There is no digestion of proteins and fats in the mouth.

### In the Oesophagus :

1. Food from the mouth then enters the oesophagus by a series of contraction and relaxation of the muscles in the walls in the alimentary canal, known as peristalsis.
2. No digestion of food takes place in the oesophagus.



### In the Stomach :

1. The stomach produces gastric juice which mixes with the food when the stomach churns.
2. Gastric juice contains proteases and hydrochloric acid.
3. Hydrochloric acid provides a slightly acidic medium for the gastric enzymes to work. It also kills germs and certain potential parasites present.
4. Proteases break complex proteins down into simpler proteins.
5. Food stays here for 2 to 6 hours.
6. No digestion of carbohydrates and fats take place in the stomach.

